

Ser. No. 10/707,249
Art Unit: 2824

11

Printed 1/12/2005

REMARKS

Under 35 USC § 102(b), claims 1, 2, 4, 17, and 18 were rejected as anticipated by Umemura et al (US Pat. No. 6,125,419).

- 5 Claims 11-16 were allowed. Claims 3, 5-10, 19, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

- 10 The limitations of allowable claim 3 were incorporated into base claim 1 without the limitations of intervening claim 2. Allowable claim 5 was amended to include the limitations of claim 1 and one but not all of the limitations of intervening claim 4. Allowable claim 9 was amended to include the limitations of claim 1 without the limitations of intervening claim 2. Allowable claim 10 was amended to include the limitations of claim 1 without the limitations of intervening claim 2.

- 15 The limitations of allowable claim 19 have been incorporated into independent claim 17 without the limitations of intervening claim 18. The limitations of base claim 17 have been incorporated into allowable claim 20.

- 20 A total of 7 independent claims are being presented. Previously only 3 independent claims were paid for. Please charge my deposit account # 01-2950 the additional fee of 4 x \$50 = \$200 for presentation of the additional independent claims. Please note that this is a **small** entity.

- 25 • The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 01-2950.
• Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16.
• Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

- 30 In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, 4-18, and 20, as amended, are in a position for allowance. This application was filed with formal drawings that have not been amended. Applicant believes that a full and complete response to the office action

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12

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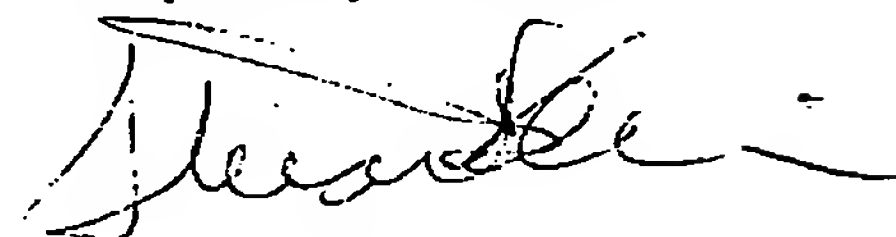
has been made. Reconsideration and re-examination is respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this
5 application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (831) 476-5506.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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